

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:  
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 May almighty God have mercy on us... **Amen.**

**THE GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Job 31. 8 - 11**

**A reading from the Book of Job**  
 From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said: Who pent up the sea behind closed doors when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb, when I wrapped it in a robe of mist and made black clouds its swaddling bands; when I marked the bounds it was not to cross and made it fast with a bolted gate? Come thus far, I said, and no farther; here your proud waves shall break.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM P.S.106:23-26, 28-31**

**R. O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever. or Alleluia!**

- Some sailed to the sea in ships to trade on the mighty waters. These men have seen the Lord's deeds, the wonders he does in the deep. **[R]**
- For he spoke; he summoned the gale,

tossing the waves of the sea up to heaven and back into the deep; their soul melted away in their distress. **[R]**

3. Then they cried to the Lord in their need and he rescued them from their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper: all the waves of the sea were hushed. **[R]**

4. They rejoiced because of the calm and he led them to the haven they desired. Let them thank the Lord for his love, the wonders he does for men. **[R]**

**SECOND READING 2. Corinthians 5:14 - 17**

**A reading from the 2nd letter of St. Paul's to the Corinthians**  
 A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians  
 The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them. From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Mark 4: 35 - 41**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**



# focus on sunday

**The gospel is an invitation to faith; to believe in the presence of Christ even when he seems far away. This is part of the darkness of our relationship with God; faith in him is the dawn that follows darkness.**



**All bow for following two lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*Pray brothers and sisters....*  
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.



At times we may feel that our church is not as vibrant as it was in the past. Today the apostles feared that they would be overwhelmed by the storm. Like us, they wondered when would Jesus come to their aid?

The multiple challenges we face as a church; lack of faith in Jesus, the shortage of priests and religious, lack of respect for God's creation and the effects of Covid may all weaken our faith today. There can be a harking back to what seems now to have been better times. We look for hope, needing hope. Our hope is in Christ, even as he was sleeping on the boat. No matter what the fear, the apostles seemed to know he would care as they said, 'Master we are going down'.

Their faith was both challenged and rewarded. Jesus is letting them know in the crises of their lives and of the persecution of the Church at the time, that he can help them overcome fear. The storm at the sea was the storm of persecution. The way forward was to trust in him. It is the same for us; the future of the Church is in our closeness and faith in Jesus. We are the Church; our faith is its strength. As Jesus found hope in his life so can we. Good words from Archbishop Desmond Tutu: *Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.*

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